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July 31, 1962 - Tuesday

Floyd Blair came to see me this morning. Although he retired years ago from the National City Bank, he has been serving as a consultant since that time, with offices in Harriman Ripley & Co. To my astonishment, he told me he was 71 years old. He has had a long and varied business experience, as well as having served as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury. He seems to know almost everyone of consequence in the London business and financial world.

After having my hair cut at Claridges by an Austrian philosopher, who showed me the penknife with which his medical father performed several types of operation sixty years ago, including removal of appendices, I went off to lunch at Bucks. There I heard put by Mr. Russell the best arguments against the UK joining the Common Market I have yet listened to. I was not convinced of their validity, but it was evidence of a fairly widespread distrust in this country of Great Britain becoming involved in the political affairs of the continent.

Our people have been queried extensively by Washington on two matters in the last few days. The first has to do with the Soblen case. All appeals in his favor have now been denied, so I called Lord Home's office to ascertain when we could expect a decision from the British Government regarding his despatch to the United States, or its refusal. It seems [redacted] the Czechoslovakian authorities have offered him asylum there.

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The second affair is connected with the appointment of a new Director-General for UNESCO. Accordingly, I went down to see Sir Edward Boyle this evening, and sent off a telegram on the subject. Boyle has only been in office two weeks; therefore, his familiarity with this case is limited.

Tonight, Emmet Hughes, now an adviser to Rockefeller Brothers, and Mrs. Storrs dined with us, in company with Pamela and Michael Berry. Emmet

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Waddesdon from him, and, in turn, left it to her great nephew James, of the French branch, who had moved to England and become a British citizen, MP, and banker.

The house was designed by a French architect, Gabriel-Hippolyte Destailleur. It is an extravaganza, exhibiting bastardization of many styles, within and without. Blois staircases and towers, Amboise, Chambord, influences are mingled in unharmonious carelessness.

It little matters what appearance the castle presents, for what it contains is rare and precious. It may be that the Wallace Collection is superior in the number of its 18th Century French pieces and porcelains, as also in the general quality of its pictures, but Waddesdon presses it closely as an almost unique collection, being especially rich in sculpture and in unusually fine Savonnerie carpets. Furniture signed by such great ébenistes as Riesener and Cressent is almost redundant in quantity; many pieces were made for Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette.

It must be galling for Frenchmen to realize that the Wallace and Waddesdon collections were given for British public use by the decision of two individuals, both of whom were originally French, Lady Wallace and Rothschild.

We went from there to Claydon House in Buckinghamshire. This presented a decided contrast to Waddesdon in the graceful proportions of its rooms, and the elegance of its decorative features. Seeing Waddesdon is a staggering experience, in spite of the vulgarity of much of its style; Claydon is serene and aristocratic. Largely unfurnished, its first floor rooms of unusual height--perhaps 20 feet,--afford one a view of stucco work such as can elsewhere scarcely be surpassed. The best room of all is a Chinoiserie piece on the second floor, that could only have been perfected by master craftsmen.

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I had a telephone call tonight from George McGhee. It concerned the Congo. He is anxious to have the British Government issue instructions immediately to its UN delegation in New York, authorizing them to go ahead with the plans proposed for "reconciliation". The FO readily agreed to this, and will issue the necessary instructions at once.

I wrote to President Eisenhower to thank him for the suggestion he generously made of his willingness to come here and talk to our Embassy people during his stay in London. Mamie and he also want to go out to the residence, which has the servants in a pleasant state of excitement.

I talked again to Dean Rusk on the telephone. He said he had dug up a British Alien Order of 1953 which might be applicable to the Soblen case. The theory is that El Al having abandoned its responsibilities by not transporting him to the US left the way open under the order for the British Government to put him on a carrier of the country of which he is a National. The second point the Secretary made was that we prefer deportation proceedings to his being placed on an El Al plane. The President had been a short time before in communication with the Prime Minister, and had made these points to him. The PM [redacted] promised to take them under consideration. We then got in touch with Sir Charles Cunningham at the Home Office, who was on his way to see the Prime Minister, so we trust further light will be thrown on the situation in the course of the evening.

Elim, having been detained because of these proceedings from going to the country, dined with me tonight at Regents Park.

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We had quite a jolly party. Hughes Miller, President of Bobbs Merrill, gave me three copies of their edition of my book, together with some newspaper clippings commenting on it. He says they have already sold 2,000 examples, and are proceeding to run off another thousand. I think it is a pity it has been published at a price of $4.50, but Miller believes later on they will get out a paperback edition.

The Calhouns are from Louisville, Kentucky, great friends of Lorraine and John Cooper, with whom we [redacted] met them in Washington. Agnes Meyer was in her usual expansive humor, and I much enjoyed talking to her. She is returning home Monday, to have cataracts removed from both her eyes. At present she is almost blind, but this did not deter her from taking a yacht to cruise along the Dalmation Coast this summer with Adlai Stevenson, Chief Justice and Mrs. Warren, Drew and Luvie Pearson, and others. Evidently she was emotionally bowled over by Tito, whom she admires. Cyrus Eaton, who must be in his 80's, does enjoy remarkable health, not shared by his wife, [redacted] a cripple in an arm chair. Eaton's political judgment has always seemed to me appalling, but he has a lively, inquisitive mind.

Crawford telephoned me from New York, and Tommy Frost from London, to urge I dispose, if possible, of our family investment in Calgary & Edmonton before Superior Oil of California, which has been buying heavily into it, concludes its purchases, aimed at majority control. I sent a cable to Bobby Lehman, whose firm is handling these transactions, and by 6:30 tonight Crawford telephoned me the deal had been accomplished at a point lower than I had previously offered the stock, less brokerage commissions.

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At 6:45, I talked on Telstar with Senator J. William Fulbright, in Little Rock, Arkansas. This telephone conversation was as clear as if we had been in the same room. In addition to himself, I had a few words with the Mayor of North Little Rock. I had prepared replies to the questions Bill had cabled me he would ask. However, our ten minutes of conversation did not allow sufficient time to get around to more than comments on fresh poultry and the Fulbright scholarship program. As is always the case, there was considerable rambling and interruptions on either end of a calm sequence of flow. The points to be covered were:

Poultry - UK imports of US cooked and canned poultry, which includes frozen cooked poultry and turkey rolls, are not restricted. However, present health regulations do not allow the entry of our fresh poultry. The regulations are to prevent Newcastle disease which has been a serious problem here. British farmers who have an outbreak of this disease in their flocks are required to slaughter the birds. Farmers are compensated by the government for their losses, but this costs the British government a considerable amount each year.

About two months ago, a system of vaccination was initiated, but this differs from our own system in that the vaccine used is a dead virus rather than a live one. Health officials state that birds vaccinated with live vaccine could themselves be a cause of spreading the disease, and therefore they will not permit the entry of our uncooked poultry. The present UK vaccination program is to be reviewed at the end of a two-year period; until that time it is doubtful that any change in the existing health regulations will be made which would permit imports of fresh poultry from the United States.

Rice and Cotton - The imports of American rice in the UK have been growing steadily. Latest figures show that for the first six months of '62 US rice sales accounted for 35% of total imports, an increase of over [illegible] the previous year. Our Agricultural Attache together with the US [illegible] Development Assn is conducting a very active promotion program which [illegible] to make this possible. There appears to be no reason why our exports of rice should not continue to increase and Arkansas will share in these exports.

Imports of cotton from the US are freely admitted to the UK and no duty is charged. It is my understanding that this situation will also prevail in the Common Market. I believe that the development of a large single market in Europe will mean a higher level of economic activity, rising standards of living, and a greater consumption of raw materials including cotton.

Fulbright Scholars - Since its inception, I have had a more than casual familiarity with the operations of the Fulbright scholarships in several European countries. I consider that as an influence toward bringing about understanding between peoples of different nationalities it is, in its scope and effect, invaluable and unique.

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